

CLAIMS

We claim:

1. Device for packaging continuous webs (B) of material such as the selvages generated on thermoforming units, of the type comprising means for controlling the input of said webs (B), means (1) for guiding and driving said webs (B), as well as cutting means (2) and, downstream of the latter, means (3) for collecting the pieces of webs, characterized in that said cutting means (2) consist of at least one blade (25) actuated according to a reciprocating movement co-operating with a cutting block (24), and in that said guiding and driving means (1) are associated to means (21) for conveying said webs (B) by means of an air flow arranged immediately before said blade (25) and said cutting block (24).

2. Device according to claim 1, characterized in that the guiding and driving means (1) comprise two rollers (10) which roll in opposite direction of rotation to each other, driven stepwise, so as to be capable of gripping the web (B) and to drive it at a determined speed towards the conveying means (21).

3. Device according to claim 2, characterized in that the rollers (10) are driven by a pneumatic jack (12) in association with a free wheel (14) and a train of gears (15).

4. Device according to any of the preceding claims, characterized in that the means for conveying by an air flow consist of a part (21) having a generally tubular shape including an inlet end (22) through which the web (B) proceeding from the guiding and driving means (1) is inserted, and an outlet end (23) through which said web (B) leaves and at least part of the edge of which constitutes the cutting block (24), while internal means are capable of allowing, in association with a pressurized air source, to create an air flow in the input/output direction.

5. Device according to claim 4, characterized in that the part (21) having a generally tubular shape is conical and is narrowing from the inlet (22) to the outlet (23).

6. Device according to any of the preceding claims, characterized in that the blade (25) is driven through a pneumatic jack (28) which also constitutes the pressurized air source which generates the air flow.

7. Device according to any of claims 3 to 6, characterized in that it includes an automatic device capable of synchronizing the action of the driving jack (12) with that of the cutting jack (25).

8. Device according to any of the preceding claims, characterized in that it is associated to means for changing the direction (4) including a set of pulleys (41) allowing to convey the webs (B) proceeding from the thermoforming unit, irrespective of the location of said device with respect to the latter.

****for U. S. filing****

9. Device according to any of the preceding claims, characterized in that the means (3) for collecting the pieces of web (B) include a bag (32) removably mounted on a drawer (31), which is associated to a mechanism capable of causing, when opening said drawer (31), the unfolding of a shutter (33) under the cutting means (2), in order to collect said pieces during the period necessary for substituting said bag, and of preventing access to the blade (25).